Council on Postsecondary Education
January 30, 2006

Improving Educator Quality State Grant Program

ACTION: The staff recommends that the Council award federal *No Child Left Behind*, Title II, Part A, funds in the amount of $1,140,000 for March 1, 2006–June 30, 2007, to support eight projects.

- Investigating Non-Point Source Pollution [Murray State University] - $140,000
- Spanish Immersion and Mentoring [Murray State University] - $143,000
- Opening Doors to New Worlds: Certifying World Language Teachers for Kentucky [Northern Kentucky University] - $143,000
- Developing and Assessing Communicative Competence in the World Language Classroom [University of Kentucky] - $143,000
- Team Development for Instructional Leadership in Restructuring Secondary Schools [University of Kentucky] - $143,000
- Making Geometry Accessible [University of Kentucky, Appalachian Rural Systemic Initiative] - $143,000
- Improving Student Learning and Teachers' Content Knowledge in Middle School Math [University of Louisville] - $142,000
- Improving Student World Language Performance: Using Assessment as the Guiding Force in Standards-Based Instruction [Western Kentucky University] - $143,000

The Improving Educator Quality State Grant Program awards grants to partnerships that deliver research-based professional development programs to K-12 teachers. To be eligible, a partnership must include a postsecondary institution's school of arts and sciences and its teacher preparation program, as well as a high-need local school district. The program enables states to fund training for teachers and administrators in any core academic subject. The Council staff, with input from the Kentucky Department of Education, the Education Professional Standards Board, and the state P-16 Council, established four priorities for IEQ funds: mathematics and science, reading, instructional leadership, and foreign language.

Content-area specialists reviewed the 15 grant proposals received and made recommendations to the Council staff. Eight proposals were selected. Brief descriptions of these projects follow.

Murray State University: $140,000
Investigating Non-Point Source Pollution
Joe Baust, principal investigator

Murray State University's Center for Environmental Education will partner with Western Kentucky University, West Kentucky Education Cooperative, Green River Education Cooperative, West Kentucky Environmental Education Consortium, and GEAR UP Kentucky to provide middle and high school teachers with strategies for incorporating hands-on, real-world instruction in math and science through the investigation of non-point source pollution. In addition to a summer workshop, teachers will receive ongoing resources and support to ensure successful implementation of instructional strategies during the school year.

Murray State University: $143,000
Spanish Immersion & Mentoring
W. A. Franklin, principal investigator

Murray State University will join with West Kentucky Community and Technical College, the Kentucky Academy of Technology Education, and seven school districts to improve middle and high school world language fluency in the Spanish language and culture. The project consists of a 15-day immersion experience in Morelia, Mexico, followed by a year-long mentoring experience and regular interaction with a professional learning community to improve teachers' ability to construct units of study that produce gains in student learning.

Northern Kentucky University: $143,000
Opening Doors to New Worlds: Certifying World Language Teachers for Kentucky
Gay Washburn, principal investigator

Northern Kentucky University and Thomas More College will target classroom teachers in Jefferson County, northern Kentucky, and surrounding counties who hold emergency certifications in world language instruction. Through a six-week, intensive summer program, Saturday workshops throughout the school year, and ongoing listserv communication, participants will receive 180 hours of graduate credit, achieve rank II certification, and become "highly qualified" to teach a world language

University of Kentucky: $143,000
Developing and Assessing Communicative Competence in the World Language Classroom
N. Jeff Rogers, principal investigator

The University of Kentucky is collaborating with Georgetown College, the Kentucky World Language Association, and high-need school districts to address Kentucky's critical shortage of highly-qualified world language instructors. Participants will attend a summer immersion camp, followed by continuous, on-site mentoring to gain proficiency in the new STAMP and LinguaFolio world language assessment instruments endorsed by the Kentucky Department of

Education. The project also will create a comprehensive system of digital resources, the World Language Resource System, which will be available to world language teachers statewide.

University of Kentucky: $143,000
Team Development for Instructional Leadership in Restructuring Secondary Schools
Tricia Browne-Ferrigno, principal investigator

The University of Kentucky, Big Sandy Community and Technical College, Pikeville College, and the school districts of Pike, Floyd, and Johnson counties will develop school-based leadership teams to improve student achievement and transform the culture of high-need, rural secondary schools. Four teams of professors, principals, guidance counselors, teachers, students, parents, and community members will be trained to assume distributed responsibilities for leadership and school improvement through a summer institute, an action research project conducted over the school year, and ongoing mentoring and professional development.

University of Kentucky: $143,000
Making Geometry Accessible
Kim Zeidler, principal investigator

The Appalachian Rural Systemic Initiative Resource Collaborative at the University of Kentucky—in partnership with the Educational Development Center, the Appalachian Math and Science Partnership, Pikeville College, and 17 high-need school districts—will serve special education eighth through twelfth grade teachers who have responsibility, either individually or collaboratively, for teaching geometry content to students. The project consists of three components: (1) a five-day institute for special education teachers centered on best practices; (2) job-embedded mentoring and ongoing support during the school year for both special education and regular mathematics instructors; and (3) follow-up training in the use of technology to teach geometry content.

University of Louisville: $142,000
Improving Student Learning and Teachers' Content Knowledge in Middle School Math
Lora Bailey, principal investigator

The University of Louisville, Kentucky State University, and the Kentucky Virtual University will work closely with middle school teachers in Frankfort, Louisville, and Grayson and Owen counties to improve their content knowledge of algebra, especially number and computation strategies. Cohorts of 20 teachers from five schools will participate in online graduate courses, practice effective assessment strategies with their students, and receive weekly assistance from an on-site project coordinator.

Western Kentucky University: $143,000
Improving Student World Language Performance: Using Assessment as the Guiding Force in Standards-Based Instruction
Laura McGee, principal investigator

Western Kentucky University will partner with the Bowling Green and Jefferson County school districts to provide professional development opportunities for Spanish, French, and German teachers who have emergency or alternative certification or who teach in high-need schools. University instructors and P-12 master teachers will work with a cohort of K-12 teachers to develop standards-based units of study, improve assessment methods using the LinguaFolio and STAMP tools, practice technology-based instruction and communication, and provide linguistic and cultural immersion experiences. Teachers will deepen their cultural understanding and conversational skills through interactions with international businesses and intensive summer workshops in Mexico, France, or Germany.

Staff preparation by Melissa McGinley